

(19) World Intellectual Property Organization
International Bureau



(43) International Publication Date
31 July 2003 (31.07.2003)

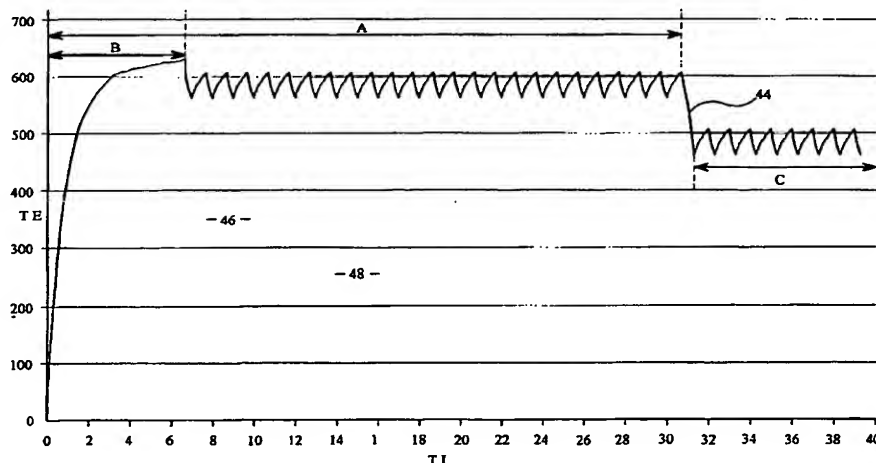
PCT

(10) International Publication Number
WO 03/063551 A1

- (51) International Patent Classification⁷: **H05B 3/74** (74) Agent: JACKSON, Derek, Charles; Derek Jackson Associates, The Old Yard, Lower Town, Claines, Worcester, Worcestershire WR3 7RY (GB).
- (21) International Application Number: PCT/GB03/00172
- (22) International Filing Date: 16 January 2003 (16.01.2003)
- (25) Filing Language: English
- (26) Publication Language: English
- (30) Priority Data:
0200914.0 16 January 2002 (16.01.2002) GB
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- (81) Designated States (national): AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ, NO, NZ, OM, PH, PL, PT, RO, RU, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, YU, ZA, ZM, ZW.
- (84) Designated States (regional): ARIPO patent (GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HU, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE, SI, SK, TR), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).
- Published:
— with international search report

[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: APPARATUS AND METHOD FOR CONTROLLING AN ELECTRIC HEATING ASSEMBLY



(57) Abstract: In apparatus and a method for providing electronic control of an electric heating assembly, a radiant electric heater (10, 110) is arranged at a lower surface (22, 124) of a glass-ceramic cooking plate (12, 112), the plate having an upper surface (40, 138) for receiving a cooking vessel (42, 136A, 136B). A temperature sensor (24, 140) monitors temperature at or adjacent to the cooking plate (12, 112) and provides an electrical output as a function of temperature. Control means (30, 142) connected to the temperature sensor (24, 140) and to the heater (10, 110) controls energising of the heater from a power supply (28, 134) for energising the heater at a plurality of user selectable power levels including a full power level. When the heater (10, 110) is energised at the full power level it is energised to heat the cooking plate (12, 112) to a first temperature level during a predetermined initial period (A) of 20 to 50 minutes and is thereafter (C) energised to heat the cooking plate to a second temperature level, lower than the first temperature level.

WO 03/063551 A1

WO 03/063551 A1



— before the expiration of the time limit for amending the claims and to be republished in the event of receipt of amendments

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